

REMARKS

Claims 9, 15, and 16 are pending. Solely to facilitate prosecution, Applicants have canceled claims 5-7, 10-12, 14, and 17-23 while retaining the right to prosecute the subject matter of these claims in future patent applications. Applicants note that the Office has indicated in the Office Action Summary that pending claims 9, 15, and 16 are allowable.

The Office maintains its rejection of claims 10 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph; claims 5, 6, 11, 12, 14, 17, 20, 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) with regard to Lin (U.S. Pat. No. 4,703,008); claims 5-7, 10-12, and 17-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) with regard to Miyazaki (*J. Immunol. Meth.* 113:261-7 1988) and Lin; and claims 6, 7, 11, and 17-21 for alleged obvious-type double patenting.

As Applicants have canceled the claims on which the maintained rejections are based, these rejections are now moot. Accordingly, Applicants request that the above rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), and obvious-type double patenting be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that the entry of this Amendment would place the application in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore request the entry of this Amendment, the Office's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of pending claims 9, 15, and 16.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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